



SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

& SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

SPRING 2009 GUIDE



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Spring, the season of...

CHANGEABLE WEATHER:

Especially in a place with the range of elevations you find in these parks. The lesson: Be prepared for anything. Tire chains may yet be required to get to the sequoia groves, along with jackets and boots.

ROAD PROJECT: Depending on weather, work in Sequoia starts this spring. Expect delays on the Generals Highway between Wolverton Road in the Giant Forest and Little Baldy (north of Wuksachi Lodge). Our goals: a good road surface and minimal traffic delays. Watch for unpaved surfaces in the work zone and possible work at night. Work halts on Memorial Day weekend from Friday noon through Monday.

DANGEROUS RIVERS: Melting snow sends water cascading down the mountains. The beautiful sights and sounds draw people to the river banks, especially on warm days, but beware! Almost every year a visitor drowns in these waters. Often they weren't even swimming, but fell in when exploring the river's edge.

RIVER ROVERS: This volunteer group is dedicated to reducing drownings in these parks. They talk to people along the rivers who may not understand the risk they take by approaching or getting in. And the rovers are succeeding! For the past two years, no one has drowned here. Want to help? Call 1-559-565-4211 and become a river rover!

WILDFLOWERS: The foothills flowers started blooming in



Redbud blooms in the foothills while snow coats Moro Rock and sequoia groves.

January. Every day, wildflowers a little further up slope start to open. By the time the foothills lie dry and brown, blooms are still just getting started in the sequoia groves and higher elevations.

INCREASING ACTIVITY: The seasonal employees that do so much for these parks and their visitors start to come back. With their return, more programs can be offered, visitor centers hours can increase, and facilities that close for the winter can reopen. See the schedules on pages 8-9.

THE SEQUOIA SHUTTLE: Starting May 21, Memorial Day weekend, you can park and ride for free in the Giant Forest. For a small fee, you can ride from Visalia to the

Big Trees. See page 6 for details.

WILDLIFE BABIES: Keep an eye out for young animals of every kind. These youngsters aren't familiar with people or cars, so slow down and keep your distance. The wilder they stay, the better they will be able to fend for themselves.

AWAKENING BEARS: Watch for hungry bears grazing on meadow grasses, or trying to grab food at a picnic area. Bears that succeed in getting human foods always try to get more, and that gets them in trouble. If they become aggressive or too destructive in seeking it, they must be killed. Keep spring the season of life -- store and guard your food carefully!

WELCOME TO SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON

Get to know these parks!

Given the names of these parks, you expect giant trees and huge canyons — and you won't be disappointed. Yet the whole of the parks is even greater than the sum of their famous parts.

Rising from 1300' to 14,494', these parks protect a spectacular elevational range. This span from low to high means dramatic shifts from hot foothills to shady forests to the cold High Sierra. It means extraordinarily diverse plants and animals living in extremely varied conditions. It means steep roads and trails that climb mountains, and cold rivers that plunge down from their heights.

There is diversity, too, in the caretakers of this landscape. Bordering these two national parks is a national monument, which is part of a national forest. A U.S. Geological Survey Field Station conducts research here. The Sequoia Natural History Association sells books and maps at visitor centers and contributes to education and research. The Sequoia Parks Foundation supports significant park projects.

Other partners, public and private, cooperate with the Park Service to meet a challenging mission — providing for public enjoyment while keeping the parks unimpaired for future generations. You are an equally important partner! Experience these parks fully: Learn all you can and join in preserving them. Together we can meet this inspiring goal:

*The National Park Service
cares for special places
saved by the American people
so that all may experience
our heritage.*

PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY — DIAL 911
No coins needed.

24-Hour Park Information
1-559-565-3341 (NPS)
www.nps.gov/seki

National Forest Information
1-559-338-2251 (USFS)
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

Yosemite Information (NPS)
1-209-372-0200
www.nps.gov/yose

California Road Conditions
1-800-427-7623 (Caltrans)

Partners in the Parks

The following organizations work together to provide this guide, first published in 1974 as the Sequoia Bark. It is published by the Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) and printed by Willem's Commercial Printing, Inc.:

National Park Service (NPS)
Malinee Crapsey, Editor
1-559-565-3341
www.nps.gov/seki

Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA)
1-559-565-3759
www.sequoiahistory.org

Sequoia Parks Foundation
1-559-739-1668
www.sequoiafund.org

U.S. Forest Service (FS)
1-559-784-1500
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

**Delaware North Companies
Parks & Resorts (DNCPR)**
1-888-252-5757
www.visitsequoia.com

Kings Canyon Park Services (KCPS)
1-866-KCANYON (522-6966)
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
1-559-565-3171
www.werc.usgs.gov

Page 1 illustrations ©SNHA by Rick Wheeler

WELCOME

You may borrow the park map & guide in Braille at visitor centers.

BIENVENUE

Une guide officielle est disponible dans les centres d'information.

BIENVENIDOS

Hay un folleto en Español disponible en los centros de visita.

WILKOMMEN

Eine Landkarte ist auch in deutscher sprache im Besucherzentrum erhältlich.

BENVENUTI

La traduzione in lingua Italiana della mappa e' disponibile in tutti i centri di informazioni.

PARK, FOREST, OR MONUMENT?

What is the difference between Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Sequoia National Forest, and Giant Sequoia National Monument?

Each is on federal land. Each exists to benefit society. Yet each has a different history and purpose. Together they provide a wide spectrum of uses.

National parks strive to keep landscapes unimpaired for future generations. They protect natural and historic features while offering light-on-the-land recreation.

Park rangers work for the National Park Service, part of the Department of the Interior.

National forests, managed under a "multiple use" concept, provide services and commodities that may include lumber, cattle grazing, minerals, as well as recreation with and without vehicles. Forest rangers work for the U.S. Forest Service, an agency in the Department of Agriculture.

Both agencies manage wilderness and other areas where they strive for maximum protection of natural resources. For example, part of Sequoia National Forest has been designated Giant Sequoia National Monument to emphasize protection of sequoias.

Parks, forests, and monuments may have different rules in order to meet their goals. Read "Where can I..." on the next page to learn what activities are permitted where. Despite confusion over names, we get a wide range of benefits from these diverse areas.



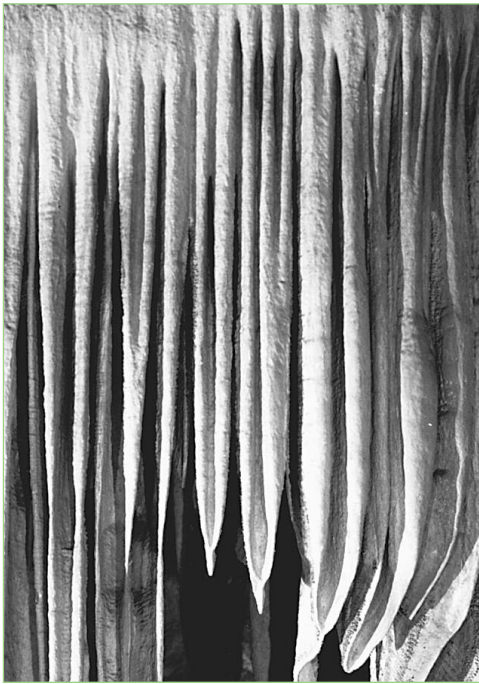
FEES HELP YOUR PARKS!

Most of your entrance and camping fees stay here. The parks invest them in important projects that improve visitor facilities and protect park resources. In recent years, fees have paid for repairing and upgrading roads, campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and restrooms. They have improved visitor centers, updated exhibits, and modernized naturalist slide programs.

ENTRANCE FEE OPTIONS

- **7-day pass for Sequoia & Kings Canyon, and for Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument (GSNM):** \$20 per vehicle (private, non-commercial) or \$10 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.
- **12-Month Pass for Sequoia & Kings Canyon, and for Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest/GSNM:** \$30 admits all passengers in a private vehicle for one year from month of purchase. Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **12-Month: America the Beautiful Interagency Annual Pass:** Cost \$80. Valid for entrance fees at Federal recreation sites including National Parks, National Forests, FWS, BLM, & Bureau of Reclamation. Admits all passengers in a single private non-commercial vehicle where per-vehicle fees are charged, or the passholder plus up to 3 persons (age 16 & older) for per-person fee areas, for 12 months. Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **Seniors: America the Beautiful Interagency Pass:** \$10 one-time fee buys a lifetime pass for entrance fees for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over. (Previously issued Golden Age passes remain valid.) Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **Accessibility: America the Beautiful Interagency Access Pass:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documentation to any park visitor center. (Previously issued Golden Access passes remain valid.) Not valid at Crystal Cave.

Crystal Cave rocks!



See fabulous cave formations! NPS Photo

No tickets are sold at the cave, only at Lodgepole and Foothills visitor centers. Buy them at least 1-1/2 hours before the tour.

Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles (24 km) from the Sequoia Park entrance at Hwy 198, and 3 miles (5 km) south of the General Sherman Tree (see page 12 map). Maximum vehicle length is 22' (6.7 m) on the road to the cave.

Use parking-lot restrooms; the cave has none. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a jacket; the 1/2-mile trail (.8 km) to the cave is steep and it's 50°F (10°C) inside.

No strollers, tripods, or baby backpacks. Not wheelchair accessible. Ask about group reservations! Tours by the SNHA: 1-559-565-3759.

45-minute Cave Tours daily starting May 9th

Don't miss this opportunity!

From 5/9 through 6/12: Weekdays 11am, noon, 2 pm, & 3 pm.

Saturday & Sunday 11 am-4 pm on the hour.

Memorial Day weekend (5/23-25): every 1/2 hour, 10:30 am -5pm.

Extra tours may be added.

From 6/13 through 9/7: Weekdays 10:30 am -4:30 pm every 1/2 hour.

Saturdays & July 4th weekend (7/3-5) every 1/2 hour 10 am - 5 pm.

Sundays 10:30 am - 5 pm.

Fees: Age 6-12 \$6.95; age 13-61 \$11.95; age 62 & up \$10.95; under 6 & Golden Access Pass holders free. Prices subject to change.

National Park, Interagency, & Golden Age passes do not apply.

SNHA members get a discount!

1½ hour Discovery Tours start June 23rd

Weekdays only 6/22 through 8/28 (no tours 7/3), starting at 4:15 pm.

Enjoy a more in-depth tour of this fabulous cave! Limited to 16 people aged 13 & up. Fee: \$19.95 each (SNHA members \$16.95).

Free Activities

NATIONAL PARK WEEK 2009 — APRIL 18-26:

FREE PARK ENTRANCE & NATIONAL JR. RANGER FAMILY DAY Saturday, April 25 - No fee! Go to Hospital Rock Picnic Area 10am-2pm for activities, prizes, and more! See pages 8-9 for regular activities. 1-559-565-4212.

WALKS & TALKS: Free ranger-led talks and walks may be offered at Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Grant Grove, the Foothills, and Cedar Grove. See pages 8-9 or check bulletin boards and visitor centers to see what is scheduled.

VISITOR CENTERS & PARK STORES: Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy. Park stores in each visitor center sell a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, and other items. Remember: All your purchases in visitor centers help to support the parks! See pages 8-9 for details.

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM - FREE FOR ALL AGES

Earn a badge while helping to protect resources. If you are 5 to 8 years old, work for the Jay Award. Those 9 to 12 years old earn a Raven Award. Ages 13 to 103 earn an Arrowhead Award. Pick up a free Jr. Ranger booklet in any visitor center, follow the instructions and have fun!

TEACHERS- BRING YOUR CLASS TO

THE PARKS! Fun, curriculum-based programs for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6th grades in spring and fall. Topics include geology, sequoias, Native Americans, and other cultural history. For details or to reserve a date: 1-559-565-4303.



WHERE CAN I...

You are visiting two different areas - a National Park (NPS) and a National Forest and Monument (USFS). Some activities that are illegal in the Park may be legal in the Forest (see page 2 for details). Know where you are!

• **WALK A PET:** *In the Parks:* Not on any trails but it's o.k. 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads). *In National Forest:* Pets can go on trails. *In both areas:* Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Don't leave pets in hot cars.

• **GO CAMPING:** *In the Parks:* Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. *In National Forest:* In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road, no further.

• **COLLECT THINGS:** *Not in Parks:* Leave everything to play its natural role in the ecosystem. *In National Forest:* Keeping a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. *In both areas:* Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.

• **HUNT:** *Not in the Parks.* Firearms must be unloaded, inoperable and stored in way that prevents ready use prior to entering national parks. *In National Forest:* Only during the season with a license: 1-559-243-4005.

• **GO CAMPING:** *In the Parks:* Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. *In National Forest:* In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road, no further.

• **DRIVE OFF-ROAD:** *Not in either area.* Stay on roads.

• **GO FISHING?** *In both areas:* Permitted during the season;

California fishing licenses required for ages 16 & up. Ask for copies of park regulations.

• **GO PICNICKING:** See picnic symbols on back-page map. Due to bears, never leave food unattended! Most sites have tables, restrooms and fire grills, except: No fire grills at Foothills and Sandy Cove. No fires permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Halstead, Powdercan, Lodgepole, and Crescent Meadow.

• **HAVE A FIRE:** *In the Parks:* Only in fire grills in campgrounds and some picnic areas. *In National Forest:* Free fire permits are required, even for gas stoves and lanterns. Some areas are more restricted than others. Get permits at Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (in Grant Grove) or USFS office in Dunlap on Hwy 180.

• **CUT WOOD:** *Not in the Parks. In National Forest:* Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit and guidelines: 559-338-2251.

• **RIDE A BICYCLE:** *In the Parks:* Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail (other than the designated bike trail in Cedar Grove). *In National Forest:* Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. *In both areas:* Be careful & courteous near pedestrians & horses. People younger than 18 must wear helmets.

• RIDE HORSEBACK

Call regarding hourly rides, backcountry spot trips, & guided trips. Opening dates are weather-dependent.

• **Cedar Grove - late May**
1-559-565-3464 summer
1-559-337-2314 off season

• **Grant Grove - early June**
1-559-335-9292 summer
1-559-594-9307 off season

• **Horse Corral - late May**
at Big Meadows in Sequoia National Forest
1-559-565-3404 summer
1-559-564-6429 off season
1-559-679-3573 cell

Change: Natural & unnatural

We often think of parks as outdoor museums. Caretaking a living ecosystem, however, is very different than protecting unchanging objects.

Both natural features and human facilities may be different each time you visit. Both are changing all the time. How we take care of those features and facilities may also affect your visit. You won't notice the ozone monitor that works 24 hours a day, but you will see other activities such as revegetation, road work, painting, or trail maintenance. Some activities may unavoidably affect you, such as smoke from a prescribed fire, campsite closures due to revegetation, or bear management.

The park staff uses such actions as tools to maintain the landscape and protect its inhabitants and visitors. Your visit gives you but a snapshot of this process; Nature decides the timing of many of these actions. They all share one goal: preservation of these parks for us all, now and in the future.



Fire in the Sierra usually hugs the ground. Its low flames clear dangerous built-up fuels. Without it, these fuels would feed intense, hard-to-control wildfires. The natural burn pattern includes occasional hot spots. These leave important openings in the forest — the sunny, bare places where sequoia trees regenerate best.

©NPS Photo

Fire: A natural change

Years ago, we tried to banish fire from the landscape, believing it was destructive. In sequoia groves, that meant putting out lightning-caused fires that naturally start as frequently as every 5 to 20 years.

As time passed, we saw unanticipated consequences from this. Fire suppression blocked important ecological processes and caused many problems. Two problems were glaring:

First, sequoias were not reproducing. We learned that fires create the conditions that sequoias need to regenerate: They create a fertile ash seedbed and they open the forest canopy, allowing sunlight to reach the seedlings.

Second, dead wood and small, dense white fir trees increased tremendously. Natural fires used to burn these away frequently. Now, after fire's long absence, these fuels feed bigger blazes that are more dangerous for people, plants, and wildlife. They burn hotter and are harder to put out.

For over 40 years at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. Now, to protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, the National Park Service works with fire to gain the benefits it brings.

When and where it's appropriate, we may ignite prescribed fires or allow lightning-caused fires to spread naturally, reducing fuels and improving resource conditions. Strong evidence shows that we are succeeding.

Why is this important? The National Park System exists to conserve resources "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." We once thought that aggressive fire suppression met this goal. A more complete understanding of fire tells us that excluding this important natural agent of change only hurts what we are trying to protect.

WILDERNESS OVERNIGHTS

Each park trail has a daily entry quota for overnight trips, and between late May and late September a wilderness camping fee of \$15 is required. The quota and fee are used to help protect your wilderness environment and experience. (They are not required for day hikes, or for overnights in the adjacent Monarch and Jennie Lakes wildernesses in US Forest Service. However, a free fire permit is required for any open flame on USFS land.)

A permit is required for each overnight trip. Reserved and first-come, first-served permits are issued the morning of your trip or after 1pm the day before at the park permit station/visitor center nearest your trailhead (see pages 8 & 9). If the quota for your preferred trail is full, you can choose another trail for that day or another day to start, if space is available. Permits are not issued after mid-afternoon as minimum distances must be reached before you camp.

Requests to reserve a permit for a certain date are accepted beginning March 1 and at least 2 weeks before your trip's start date.

Reserved permits must be picked up either the afternoon before or by 9am on the day of departure. If delayed, call the Wilderness Office or you may lose the reservation.

Camping in the park's "front-country" is permitted only in campgrounds. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pull-outs, picnic areas, or trailheads in the park.

Wilderness Permit Reservations
Sequoia & Kings Canyon N.P.
47050 Generals Highway #60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
1-559-565-3766; Fax 565-4239

For more details, visit Wilderness Information at www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm or call.

HIGH SIERRA LODGE

• **BEARPAW MEADOW CAMP**
(DNCPR) www.visitsequoia.com
Reservations required:
1-888-252-5757. Open mid-June to mid-September. This tent hotel is at 7800' on the High Sierra Trail, an 11-mile hike from Giant Forest.

Unnatural change: Alien invaders!

Plants and animals evolve together in communities over time. Often they keep each other in check. When species get brought in from other places, the newcomers may multiply wildly since the competitors, predators and diseases they evolved with in their home communities are not here. They break links in the local web of life, badly disrupting species that depend on each other. Sometimes they completely replace native plants and animals.

Practice alien hygiene! Look for seeds and tiny animals attached to shoes, clothes, waders, equipment, tires, and pet fur. Wash mud from under cars and on tires before coming into the parks. The natives will thank you!



STAR THISTLE

Two immediate threats:

Star thistle is one of the most damaging non-natives in the state. Dense, thorny patches completely exclude native plants, and limit wildlife movements. Not yet established here! If you recognize it from your home or travels, make sure not to bring it in.

New Zealand Mud Snails take over waterways that they invade, eating most of the food. Due to their biology, just one snail can start a huge population! They stick on gear; check boots & waders thoroughly for this tiny invader. Common just east of the parks. Could easily be carried into the High Sierra.



YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SAFETY!

Natural areas present hazards. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. Wild animals, uneven ground, and changing weather can pose dangers. People may create other hazards through campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

Water is the main cause of death here. Many drowning victims were walking or climbing near rivers and unexpectedly fell in.

The Park Service works to reduce risks, but your safety is in your own hands. Keep alert. Read warnings and ask a ranger for advice.

Be Safe!

DROWNING: The #1 cause of death in national parks! Be extra careful along rivers and streams; falling in is as dangerous as swimming. Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible. Rocks are smooth and slippery; swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength.

PLAGUE: Please do not feed or touch ANY park animals. Fleas on rodents can carry plague. Deer mice feces can carry hantavirus.

POISON OAK: This common shrub grows up to 5000 feet elevation: Red leaves with whitish berries in fall, bare in winter; shiny green leaves in groups of three in spring. If you touch any part of the plant, wash skin and clothes right away.



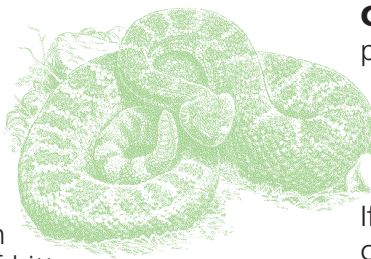
TICKS: Common in foothill and Kings Canyon grasses; check yourself after a walk. Their bite is painless, but a small percentage carry Lyme disease. Remove them carefully with tweezers; seek a doctor's advice.



GIARDIA in lakes and streams can cause intestinal upset. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria and Giardia, but can be effective if used properly. Boil drinking water at least 3 minutes.

HYPOTHERMIA: This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry and snack often. If others don't respond to the need for warmer clothes or are stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm sugary drinks into them immediately. Get them into dry clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter.

RATTLESNAKES are especially common in the foothills. Watch where you put your hands and feet! They are protected; do not kill them. Most bites result from teasing or handling. Very few people die, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic; call a ranger or 911.



LIGHTNING: If you see dark clouds or lightning or hear thunder, get inside a large building or a vehicle (not convertible), if possible. Do not stand under trees or in shallow caves. Avoid projecting above the surrounding landscape such as standing on a ridge, on Moro Rock, or in open meadows. Stay away from open water, wire fences, and metal railings, which can carry lightning from a distance.

WEST NILE VIRUS is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is not common, but take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

CARBON MONOXIDE: This odorless, colorless gas can be fatal. Never burn charcoal in closed spaces such as a tent, camper, or RV.

OZONE POLLUTION: See air-quality forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest May to October, peaking in late afternoon. The peaks sometimes reach "unhealthy" state/fed. standards, and can affect respiratory systems. Ozone forms from gases in car and factory exhaust.

CELL PHONES rarely work well in these mountains; don't rely on them. Note where pay telephones are available (see pages 8 & 9).

COUGARS roam throughout the parks, but chances of seeing one are very small. They rarely attack people and pets, but be aware. Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. If you see a cougar, the goal is to convince it that you are not prey and may be dangerous to it:

- Don't run. Cougars associate running with prey and give chase.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to hide.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly while facing the lion.
- Pick up children.
- If the lion acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back!
- Report any cougar sightings.

EXPLORE SAFELY: Avoid going alone. Tell someone your plans and return time. Keep your eyes and ears open for potential hazards above and around you. Slow down and share roads and trails with people and wildlife.

SAFE DRINKING WATER: The parks' 13 water systems are tested to ensure that they meet state and federal standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available at visitor centers.

OPERATION NO-GROW
Prevent illegal marijuana growing! Keep parks safe, natural, and free from illegal activities! Report suspicious activities: 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

Rules of the road

GO SLOW FOR WILDLIFE!

DON'T LOSE YOUR BRAKES

Frequent braking causes overheating and brake failure. Instead, *always* downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder, but it will save your brakes.

STILL-ICY ROADS

Spring storms & cold nights can mean slick roads, especially in shady areas. Snow tires may still be required after late storms. 24-hour road-condition recording: 1-559-565-3341 then press 9, then 4.

EMERGENCY CAR REPAIRS

For a tow: 565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, AAA available 24 hours for lock outs, jump starts, out-of-gas, minor repairs: call 565-4070.

FINDING GASOLINE

No gas stations lie within park

boundaries. Only Grant Grove market sells cans of emergency gas. Fill up in Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction, or in the National Forest at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp 559-335-2000: Year-round 24 hours with credit card. 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Stony Creek Village 1-559-565-3909: Opens early May 9. Available 24 hours with credit card. Between Wuksachi & Grant Grove on the Generals Hwy.
- Kings Canyon Lodge 1-559-335-2405: Opens after April 11. Call to confirm. Gas sales usually 9am-dark. 17 miles (27 km) north from Grant Grove on Hwy 180.

PREVENT CAR FIRES

Hot brakes & mufflers can start fires. Only stop in paved areas, not on grasses.

SPRING OPENINGS OF NARROW, WINDING ROADS

IN KINGS CANYON & NATIONAL FOREST/SEQUOIA MONUMENT - Hwy 180 East to Cedar Grove in the Kings Canyon: 4/24 at noon, conditions permitting.

Panoramic Point Road: mid-May. Redwood Mountain Road (NPS) & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (FS): Unpaved, unplowed. Opens when snow melts.

IN SEQUOIA - Crystal Cave Road: Open 5/9, weather permitting. Maximum vehicle length 22' (6.7m). Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road: Opens before 5/21, conditions permitting. During shuttle season 5/22-9/7, single vehicles more than 22 feet long and combination vehicles are prohibited; exception if valid disabled-parking placards are displayed. Mineral King Road: Open 5/22, weather permitting. Until then, new gate closed at Lookout Point entrance station requires a free permit from Foothills

Visitor Center. RVs & trailers not recommended (not permitted in campgrounds).

South Fork Road: Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet. Middle Fork Road: Open by mid-May; slippery when wet.

LENGTH ADVISORY

On 12 narrow miles from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia Park, advised maximum vehicle length is 22 feet (6.7m). Maximum limit on the Generals Highway is 40 feet (12 m) for single vehicles, 50 feet (15 m) for vehicles plus a towed unit. Alternative: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, & wider. Towing a car? Stay in the foothills; use the car to explore.

BICYCLES

Ride only on roads (not trails), single file, with traffic, and wear light colors after dark. People under 18 must wear a helmet.

MOTORCYCLES

Avoid oil buildup on pavement.

#1 GIANT FOREST ROUTE (green): Free; 5/22-9 /7. From Giant Forest Museum to Wuksachi and back; 3 stops along the way. About 35 minutes' ride one way.

STOPS

- Giant Forest Museum & All-Shuttle Transfer Point
- Lower Sherman Tree accessible - trail Parking with disabled-placard only
- Upper Sherman Tree - Main Trail & Parking Park here to walk down to tree.
- Lodgepole Visitor Center & Market, Lodgepole Campground (2 stops)
- Wuksachi Restaurant & Lodge

See bulletin boards for shuttle schedules.

Be sure to check what time the last bus leaves to get you back to your car.



#2 MORO ROCK / CRESCENT MEADOW ROUTE (gray): Free; 5/22-9/7. Leaves Giant Forest Museum approximately every 20 minutes; stops at Moro Rock only on the outbound trip. 15-minute ride one way.

STOPS

- Giant Forest Museum & All-Shuttle Transfer Point
- Moro Rock Description below.
- Crescent Meadow Description below.

GIANT FOREST-TO-VISALIA ROUTE: \$15 round trip. No additional park entrance fee. Reservations required; call 1-877-BUS-HIKE or www.sequoiashuttle.com. Two-hour ride each way. Buses leave Visalia for Giant Forest at 7am, 8am, 9am, & 1pm. Buses leave Giant Forest for Visalia on the hour from 2:30pm through 6:30pm. 5/22 through 9/7.

SEE SEQUOIA BY SHUTTLE!



Highlights SEQUOIA PARK

GIANT FOREST

Review safety tips on page 5. There are still patches of snow in places. Starting 5/22, take the shuttle.

GIANT FOREST MUSEUM

The best place to learn about sequoias! Shuttle stop.

BIG TREES TRAIL

A paved, level, 2/3-mile (1 km) loop with colorful trailside panels describing sequoia ecology. Start at Giant Forest Museum; parking at the trail is only for cars with placards.) 1 hour round trip.

GENERAL SHERMAN TREE:

Two trails go to the world's largest tree. Starting 5/22, the shuttle stops at the beginning of each trail:

- **Main Sherman Tree Trail & Parking** - runs 1/2 mile down to the tree and has some stairs. It is an uphill walk back to your car. Drive two miles (3.2 km) north of

Giant Forest Museum (past the small Sherman Tree parking lot for those with *disabled* placards only) to Wolverton Road. Turn right, then follow signs. If you can walk down but the walk back up is too difficult, starting 5/22 you can continue from the tree down the accessible trail to the shuttle stop on the Generals Highway, and ride the *north-bound* shuttle (toward Wuksachi) back to your car.

- **Wheelchair-accessible trail from Generals Highway to Sherman Tree** - parking for those with *disabled* placards only. If you have no placard but can't make the walk down the main trail, ask at any visitor center for a temporary permit or, starting 5/22, take the shuttle.

CONGRESS TRAIL: A fairly level 2-mile loop (3.2 km) from the Sherman Tree into the grove.

MORO ROCK / CRESCENT MEADOW

No drinking water is available along this 3-mile (5 km), dead-end road that begins at Giant Forest Museum. From 5/22 through 9/7, take a shuttle to see it. During that period, single vehicles more than 22 feet long and those towing anything are prohibited – except those with valid disabled-parking placards displayed. Highlights include:

MORO ROCK: A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile (.4 km) staircase to the summit (300 foot /91 m elevation gain) and a spectacular view. Two miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway. Shuttle stop.

TUNNEL LOG: A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through, and the only “tree you can drive through” in these parks. There is a by-pass for larger vehicles. 2.7 miles (4.3 km) from the Museum.

CRESCENT MEADOW: Summer wildflowers in a fragile meadow. Stay on designated trails; use only fallen logs to walk into meadows. Try the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, a cabin in a fallen sequoia, or the High Sierra Trail (71 miles/114 km to Mt. Whitney, at 14,494 feet /4417 m, the highest peak in the 48 states). Shuttle stop.

NEARBY TRAILS

TOKOPAH FALLS: 1.7 miles (2.7 km) along the Marble Fork of the

Kaweah River, ending at granite cliffs and a waterfall. Be careful by the water! Start in Lodgepole Campground (a shuttle stop). For the 500 foot/152 m elevation gain, allow 2-1/2 to 3 hours.

THE FOOTHILLS

The Sierra's lower elevations offer more different kinds of plants and animals than the conifer forests or highcountry. Watch for ticks and poison oak (see page 5 for safety tips).

HOSPITAL ROCK PICNIC AREA:

Exhibits about the Western Mono people who once lived here and a very short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a waterfall. Careful; drownings often occur here! Always store food from bears.

MARBLE FALLS TRAIL climbs 3.9 miles (6 km) through chaparral to a lovely cascade. Park near site #14 at Potwisha Campground. Take the dirt road across the concrete ditch; the trail starts along the steep bank to the right.

PARADISE CREEK: At Buckeye Flat Campground, take the path across from site #26 across the footbridge over the Middle Fork. Follow Paradise Creek, not the Middle Fork, for 1-1/2 miles (1.6 km) until the trail grows faint.

MINERAL KING

See page 8 for information.

Highlights

KINGS CANYON



Photo courtesy of R. Mazur

BEFORE EXPLORING: Snow may still cover some trails, making them difficult to follow. Review safety advice on page 5. You are on your own in the park — be safe!

GRANT GROVE

GENERAL GRANT TREE:

One of the world's largest living trees. President Coolidge proclaimed it the Nation's Christmas Tree in 1926. It is also a National Shrine, the only living memorial to those who died in war. Visit historic Gamlin Cabin and the Fallen Monarch along this 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved trail. A trail guide is sold at the visitor center. North and west of the visitor center 1 mile (1.6 km).

NORTH GROVE LOOP: This lightly traveled, 1-1/2 mile (2.4 km) trail provides a close look at the Big Trees and a quiet walk through conifer forest. Starts at lower Grant Tree parking area.

DEAD GIANT LOOP:

Speculate on what killed this sequoia, and enjoy a picturesque view of an historic mill pond. Follow the old road from the lower Grant Tree parking area for about a mile. The trail

branches off, creating a 1-1/2 mile (2.4 km) round trip.

NEARBY TRAILS & POINTS OF INTEREST

PANORAMIC POINT ROAD:

Opens to cars by 5/22. Until then, snowshoe or hike this steep, narrow road to a High-Sierra vista. Go east through visitor-center parking, left around the meadow, right at the sign "Panoramic Point, 2.3 miles (3.7km)." Walk 1/4 mile (.4km) up to viewpoint. Trailers/RVs not recommended. The 4-mile (6.4 km) round-trip Park Ridge Trail begins here.

BUENA VISTA PEAK: South of Kings Canyon Overlook on west side of Generals Highway, 7 miles (11 km) south of Grant Grove. Trail to 360° vista of Redwood Canyon, Buck Rock Lookout, and High Sierra. 2 miles (3.2 km) round trip.

REDWOOD CANYON: Rough dirt road, not plowed, to the world's largest sequoia grove. Acres of rejuvenating forest from 30 years of prescribed fires show the positive relationship between fire and sequoias. Across Generals Highway from Quail Flat/ Hume Lake junction (7 miles/ 11.3km south of Grant Grove), to Redwood Saddle.

Turn right (west) and go 2 miles (3.2km) to parking lot.

BIG BALDY RIDGE: Great views out and down into Redwood Canyon. Two-mile trail (3.2km) to the summit at 8,209 feet (2502m). From Grant Grove, go 8 miles (13km) south on Generals Highway to trailhead. Elevation gain 600 feet (183m); round trip 4 miles (6.4km).

KINGS CANYON OVER-

LOOK: View to the northeast of the High Sierra wilderness, stop at this overlook about 6 miles (9.5km) south of Grant Grove.

REDWOOD MOUNTAIN

OVERLOOK: Six miles (9.6 km) south of Grant Grove, across the Generals Highway from Quail Flat junction, it looks west over one of the world's largest sequoia groves. Studies here proved the positive relationship between fire and sequoia reproduction.

THE KINGS CANYON & CEDAR GROVE

Take time to see at least part of this spectacular gorge. Be very careful around the water!

CANYON VIEW:

The "U" shape of this canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals its glacial history. 1 mile (1.6 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road.

KNAPP'S CABIN:

During the Roaring '20s, Santa Barbara businessman George Knapp commissioned lavish fishing expeditions here, using this small cabin to store gear. A short walk from a turnout 2 miles (3.2 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road.

ROARING RIVER FALLS:

A shady 5-minute walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a narrow granite chute. 3 miles (4.8 km) east of the Village road. Paved, relatively accessible.

ZUMWALT MEADOW:

This 1.5-mile (2.4 km) trail offers high granite walls, lush meadows, and the winding Kings

River. Park at trailhead 4-1/2 miles (7.2 km) east of the Cedar Grove Village road. Purchase a trail guide at the visitor center. Allow 1 hour.



ROAD'S END: Here where the pavement ends are high granite walls and trails to the river, Muir Rock, and the High Sierra. East of the Village turnoff 5-1/2 miles (8.8 km).

TAKE A HIKE!

MIST FALLS: One of the park's largest waterfalls. Allow 4-5 hours; 9 miles (14.4 km) round trip. Fairly flat at first; 600-foot elevation gain in the last 2 miles (3.2 km). Park at Road's End.

DON CECIL TRAIL: The main route into the canyon prior to the 1939 completion of Highway 180. It starts .2 miles (.3 km) east of the village, climbs a north-facing slope past Sheep Creek Cascade (1 mile/1.6 km up) to good views. Lookout Peak (13-mile/21-km round trip, 4000 foot/ 1220 m elevation gain) has a great panorama. Strenuous; allow all day.

HOTEL CREEK TRAIL:

Starts .2 mile (.3 km) north of the market at the intersection with the pack station road. Climbs through chaparral to forest and views from Cedar Grove Overlook. 5 miles (8 km) round trip; 1200-foot/365 m elevation gain. Strenuous; allow 3 -4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9 km) loop.

USFS NATIONAL FOREST

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest (see page 2 for *Park or Forest*).

CONVERSE BASIN:

Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Walk the 2-mile (3.2 km) Boole Tree loop to see a monarch they spared (6 miles north of Grant Grove), or the 1/2-mile (.8 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, a tree cut for exhibit at the 1893 World's Fair (2 miles north of Grant Grove).

INDIAN BASIN:

A one-mile accessible trail and one-mile unpaved trail offer a look at how this meadow and forest are recovering after logging a century ago. Take Highway 180 7 miles north of Grant Grove; turn into Princess Campground. Trail begins by the host's site.

HUME LAKE, formed by a rare, historic, multiple-arch dam, supplied water to a flume that floated lumber 67 miles (108km) to Sanger. An easy 2 1/2-mile (4 km) trail circles it. Page 9 lists facilities. Eight miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 3 miles (4.8 km) south on Hume Lake Road.

FACILITIES IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

Giant Forest Area

GIANT FOREST SEQUOIA GROVE

6400' (1950m) elevation. Home of the world's biggest trees, it offers 40 miles (64 km) of walking trails. For nearby picnic areas see page 3 and the map on page 12. See Highlights on page 6.

- **Giant Forest Museum (NPS):** Daily 9am-4:30pm through 5/21, then 9am-7pm. Exhibits about the Big Trees. Books, maps, first aid. 1-559-565-4480. No payphone; closest are at Lodgepole & Wolverton (don't rely on cell phones).
- **Beetle Rock Nature Center (NPS):** Opens June 27. Across the Generals Highway from Giant Forest Museum. Stop in, one and all!

CRYSTAL CAVE - OPENS MAY 10

One of the park's highlights! See page 3 for details & schedule.

Lodgepole Area

LODGEPOLE VILLAGE

6700' (2040 m) elevation. A few miles north of Giant Forest, in beautiful Tokopah Canyon along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River. For near-by picnic areas see page 3 & the map on page 12.

INFORMATION (NPS)

- **Wilderness Permits:** Required for backcountry overnight trips. Self-issue outside on the front of the visitor center through 5/21, then go to the visitor center. See page 4 for details. 1-559-565-3766.
- **Visitor Center:** Opens 5/8. Daily 9am-4:30pm through 5/28, then 7am-5pm. *Bears of the Sierra* movie; exhibits on geology & forest life; books; maps; first aid. Wilderness permits starting 5/22. Crystal Cave tickets sold 9am-4pm through 5/28, then 8am-4pm. Pay phone. 1-559-565-4436.

FOOD, SHOPS & OTHER SERVICES (DNCPR)

- **Market, Gift Shop (DNCPR):** Through 4/30, daily 10am-4:30pm. 5/1-21 9am-6pm, then 8am-8pm. Groceries, pre-made sandwiches, supplies, bear canisters, ice cream, film, souvenirs.
- **Watchtower Deli (DNCPR):** Opens 5/22, daily 11am-6pm. Sandwiches, salads.
- **Harrison BBQ & Grill (DNCPR):** Open 5/1-21 weekends only, 9am-6pm. Starting 5/22, daily 8am-7:45pm.
- **Laundry (DNCPR):** Same hours as Market. Last load in 1 hour before closing.
- **Showers (DNCPR):** Open 5/1-21, daily 9am-1pm & 3-5:45pm. Starting 5/22, 8am-1pm & 3-7:45pm.
- **Post Office:** Weekdays 8am-1pm & 2-4pm. 1-559-565-3678. Lobby open 24 hours. Address mail to visitors: c/o General Delivery, Sequoia National Park, CA 93262.
- **Lodgepole Campground (NPS):** Open all year. Details on page 11.
- **Pay Telephones:** Outside visitor center & market (cell-phone signals are usually poor).

WOLVERTON MEADOWS

7200' (2160 m) elevation. North of Sherman Tree 2 miles (3.2km).

- **Wolverton BBQ (DNCPR):** Nightly 6/12-9/6, weather permitting. All-you-can-eat, served outdoors at 6pm (time adjusts with sunset).

Foothills Area

500-3500' (457-1067 m) elevation. Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers & snow-free winters; & the greatest biological diversity in these parks. Park headquarters is at Ash Mountain.

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 8am-4:30pm through 5/21, then 8am-6pm. Exhibits, books, maps, bear canisters, first aid, local wilderness permits. 1-559-565-3135.
- **Camping (NPS):** At Potwisha (year-round) & Buckeye Flat (closed in winter). Details on page 11.
- **Pay Telephones** (cell phone signals are usually poor): Foothills Visitor Center near front door; Potwisha Campground, Hospital Rock Picnic Area (on restroom wall).

Mineral King Area

The road to this area is open May 22 to November 1.

NOTE: Until May 22, Mineral King Road is closed about 9 miles from Highway 198. Visitors can go through the first gate (at the park boundary) with a permit from the Foothills Visitor Center (see hours above). You can then go another 8 miles up (to a second gate) weather permitting. The road ends 8 miles beyond that.

7800' (2380 m) elevation. A subalpine valley at the end of a steep, narrow, difficult road. No RVs, buses, or trailers, please. No electricity or gasoline. *Be aware:* In spring & early summer, marmots chew on hoses and wiring in parked cars in the valley.

- **Ranger Station (NPS):** Opens Saturday, May 23. Until then, self-register for wilderness permits on the porch.
- **Pay Telephones:** Cold Springs Campground, Sawtooth parking area. Cell phone signals are usually poor.
- **Silver City Mountain Resort:** Open 5/22 thru 10/31. Cabins, chalets, showers, small store (gifts, limited supplies, ice, **no gasoline**, no fishing licenses). Restaurant/store: Thursday-Monday 8am-8pm; Tuesday-Wednesday 8am-5pm pie & coffee only. Pay telephone. 1-559-561-3223; www.silvercityresort.com.
- **Camping (NPS):** No RVs or trailers. Details: page 11.

Wuksachi

LODGE & DINING ROOM (DNCPR)

7200' (2160 m) elevation. Year-round center for lodging & food services in Sequoia; 4 miles (6.4 km) north of the Sherman Tree.

Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts and the National Park Foundation have made it easy for Wuksachi Lodge guests to contribute to these parks. Ask about the Guest Donation Program when you check in!

- **Dining Room:** Daily, through 5/21 7:30-9:30am; 11:30am-2:30pm; 5-8:30pm. Starting 5/22, 7-10am, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-10pm. Dinner reservations required. Box lunches available. 1-559-565-4070. Lounge daily 5-8:30pm through 5/21, then 5-10pm.
- **Gift Shop:** Daily 8am-8pm. Film, souvenirs, crafts, clothing.
- **Wuksachi Lodge:** See page 10 for details. Front desk 24 hours.
- **Pay Telephones:** At main lodge. Cell-phone signals are often poor.

FREE NATURE PROGRAMS

GIANT FOREST/ WUKSACHI LODGE

- In spring, rangers usually offer programs on weekends & holidays.
- Daily activities start Memorial Day weekend. Ask at visitor centers or see local bulletin boards for times, locations, & topics.

IN THE FOOTHILLS

- **Potwisha Campground Saturday Evening Programs** start 5/4 (not 4/25) at 7:30pm. Non-campers may attend! Check for additional programs.
- **National Junior Ranger Family Day - April 25 - 10am-2pm** at Hospital Rock Picnic Area. Get a badge & certificate! See page 3.



FACILITIES IN KINGS CANYON PARK & USFS

Grant Grove Area

GRANT GROVE VILLAGE

6600' (2008 m) elevation. This was originally General Grant National Park, created in 1890 to protect sequoias from logging. Here are both a pristine grove & one that was logged in the 1800s.

INFORMATION

- **Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 8am-5pm through 5/21, then 8am-6pm. Exhibits, 15-minute movie in English & Spanish. Books, maps, first aid, bear canisters. Local wilderness permits issued until 1/2 hour before closing. 1-559-565-4307.

FOOD & SHOPS (KCPS)

- **Restaurant:** Daily through 5/21 9am-2pm & 5-7pm (Fridays & Saturdays until 8pm). Starting 5/22, 7am-2pm & 5-9pm.
- **Gift Shop & Market:** Daily 9am-6pm (Fridays & Saturdays until 7pm) through 5/21, then 8am-9pm. Souvenirs, film, clothing, ATM. Market sells food & other supplies, sandwiches, bear canisters, & cans of emergency gasoline.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping & Lodging:** See page 10-11. Lodge front desk 7am-10pm through 5/21, then 8am-midnight.
- **Post Office:** Hours may vary. Monday-Friday 9am -3:30 pm; Saturday 10 -noon. Lobby open 24 hours. Send mail for visitors to: c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.
- **Stables - Horseback Riding:** Details on page 3.
- **Pay Telephones:** Available 24 hours at Kings Canyon Visitor Center (booth by front door); & outside gift shop, market, & post office. Cell phone signals are usually poor.

In the Kings Canyon

Highway 180 from Hume Lake Junction into the canyon opens April 24 at noon, conditions permitting.

CEDAR GROVE VILLAGE

4600' (1410 m) elevation. This glaciated valley features towering granite cliffs, tumbling waterfalls, and the powerful Kings River — “a rival to the Yosemite,” according to John Muir.

INFORMATION

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily starting 5/22, 9am-5pm. Books, maps, first aid, bear canisters. Local wilderness permits issued 9am-4pm. 1-559-565-3793.
- **Wilderness Permits (NPS):** At Road's End, 6 miles (9.6km) east of the village. Self-issue through 5/21, then 7am-3pm daily. No permits issued after 2:45pm. Maps, bear canisters.

FOOD, LODGING & SHOPS (KCPS) - Starting May 14

- **Restaurant:** Counter-service meals & snack bar; not a full-service restaurant. From 5/14-6/11 weekdays 8-10:30am & 5-7pm; weekends 8am-2pm & 5-7pm. Starting 6/12 daily 7am-2pm & 5-9pm. Lunch supplies available at market.
- **Gift Shop & Market:** Salads, sandwiches, supplies, bear canisters, souvenirs, film. From 5/14-6/11 8am-7pm, then 7am-9pm.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping & Lodging:** See pages 10-11. Lodge opens 5/14.
- **Showers:** 5/14-6/11 8am-1pm & 3-6pm, then 7am-1pm & 3-7pm
- **Pay Telephones:** Outside lodge & ranger station.

IN GRANT GROVE:

- **Weekend Grant Tree Walks 2:00 pm; daily starting 5/22.**
 - Saturday evening programs at John Muir Lodge. Evening programs move outside to Sunset Amphitheater in late May, conditions permitting. Nightly programs begin 5/29. Time & topics vary; check locally. Additional programs may be offered.

Paying Your Entrance Fee at Kings Canyon in Grant Grove

Until May 13, you can pay the required park and forest entrance fee just outside the visitor center.

After that, the entrance station at Big Stump is open.

Please stop to purchase or show your pass.

One fee is good for visiting *both* parks *and* the forest!

USFS: National Forest & Monument

HUME LAKE & BIG MEADOWS AREAS (FS)

Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest, borders much of the western edge of these National Parks. You are in National Forest when you drive between park areas Lodgepole and Grant Grove, and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove (see page 2 - Parks and Forests). Sold to the government as a Forest Reserve in 1935, it is an excellent place to see sequoias recovering from intensive logging in the late 1800s.

PAY TELEPHONES (cell-phone signals are usually poor):

- **Between Wuksachi Village & Grant Grove:** Summer only at Stony Creek Resort & Big Meadows trailhead.
- **Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove:** Hume Lake (year round; see *Hume Lake* below); Kings Canyon Lodge (summer only).

INFORMATION

- **USFS Hume Lake District Office (FS):** 35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in Dunlap, 19 miles (31 km) west of Kings Canyon park entrance at Big Stump. Open 1st Saturday of the month through September, 8am-4:30pm. Maps & books sold. 1-559-338-2251; www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia.

LODGING & OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping (FS) & Lodging (private):** See pages 10 & 11 for details.
- **Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee):** Open all year. A resort on public land. On Generals Highway 9 miles (14.5km) south of Grant Grove. Breakfast 8-9am, lunch 12-1pm, dinner 6-7pm through 5/22, then hours increase. Cabins, hotel, children's activities. 1-800-227-9900 or 1-559-565-3388.
- **Hume Lake:** Year-round private facilities open to public: 24-hour laundry (coin operated) & gas station (with credit card). Market & snack shop. North of Grant Grove 8 miles (13km) on Hwy 180, then right on Hume Lake Road 3 miles (5km). 1-559-335-2000.
- **Boyden Cavern:** On Highway 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Daily tours 4/24-5/22 11am-4pm on the hour; then 10am-5pm. Gift shop. Ask about evening flashlight tours & guided canyoneering trips. Ages 14 & up \$13; 3-13 \$6.50; under 3 free. AAA 10% discount. *Senior and Access Interagency Pass discounts do not apply.* Schools & other group reservations: 1-559-338-0959.
- **Stony Creek Village (FS):** On Generals Highway south of Grant Grove. Opening mid-to-late May: Market 8am-7pm (8pm Friday-Saturday); restaurant 4-7pm. Longer hours starting early June. Showers/laundry. Gasoline 24 hours with credit card. Lodging opens 5/29. 1-866-KCANYON; 1-559-565-3909.

GASOLINE SALES on FOREST LANDS

- At Hume Lake year-round, Stony Creek starting mid-to-late May. Kings Canyon Lodge may open late April. See page 3 for details.

FREE NATURE PROGRAMS

IN CEDAR GROVE:

- **Walks, talks, & campfire programs:** Check bulletin boards or visitor center for times, topics, and meeting locations for ranger-led activities.
 - South Fork Clean Up, sponsored by Friends of the South Fork Kings, June 21-22; call (916) 601-9954 for more information.

Staying Overnight

CAMPING DOs & DON'Ts: These rules protect the park & you!

NOTE: Rules may vary between the Park and the National Forest. Check page 3 for details.

KEEP FOOD FROM BEARS!

It's required all year! Learn how to do it correctly — see below.

CAMPFIRE RESTRICTIONS

Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs from trees.

Better yet, bring wood or buy it at a market. Fires must be out cold before you leave. Check bulletin boards for restrictions. In the national forest & monument you must get a free campfire permit from the Hume Lake District Office, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove), or a Forest Service ranger.

ROADSIDE CAMPING?

It's not permitted in the park.

Camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In the National Forest & Monument, roadside camping is permitted unless posted otherwise. Ask a ranger for possible locations.

NO HOLDING CAMPSITES

You may not hold a site for someone who has not arrived. Sites not occupied for 24 hours are considered abandoned; property may be impounded.

GROUP SITES & MAXIMUM GROUP SIZES

UP TO 6: Many campgrounds allow only one vehicle & six people per site. Check locally for slight variations in these limits & parking locations for extra vehicles.

7 TO 19: In summer, Crystal Springs (Grant Grove) has first-come, first-served sites for groups of 7-15. Canyon View in Cedar Grove has sites for 7-19. \$35/site.

LARGER: Call in advance for information on requesting summer group tent-camping sites: For Sunset or Canyon View 1-559-565-4335 (5/1-10/31: 565-3792 for Canyon View). To reserve a group site in Dorst or in the national forest/monument: 1-877-444-6777 or www.recreation.gov.

TIME LIMITS ON CAMPING

Camping stays are limited to 14 days between June 14 and September 14, with 30 days total per year.

QUIET & GENERATOR HOURS

10pm-6am. Generator use: At Lodgepole & Dorst only 8-11am & 5-8pm; at other campgrounds 9am-9pm only. Music should be audible in your campsite only.

RVS & TRAILERS

No hookups are available.

Dump stations: See chart on page 11.

Trailers are permitted in all but four park campgrounds; check the chart on page 11. Many sites are not suitable for trailers or RVs. Sites may not be level. Vehicles over 30 feet long can fit in a small number of sites.

Length advisory: On the Generals Highway in Sequoia Park, from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum, advised vehicle length limit is 22 feet. See page 5 for other limits & warnings.

PROPANE CANISTERS

Do not put propane or other fuel canisters in park trash cans or leave them in the parks. Take them with you when you leave.

BE A VOLUNTEER HOST!

Live in the park, take care of campgrounds & resources, & meet great people! Learn about volunteer opportunities; contact the Park Volunteer Coordinator, 47050 Generals Highway, Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651.



save a bear!

Sales from the Save-a-Bear Kit & color pin (above) directly support bear management. See the pins at visitor centers.

LODGING

SEQUOIA PARK

• **Wuksachi Village** (DNCPR)
Reservations: 1-888-252-5757
Front Desk: 1-559-565-4070
www.visitsequoia.com. Open all year. North of Giant Forest Museum 6 miles (9.6 km). Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts.

* **Silver City Mountain Resort** *
Summer: 1-559-561-3223
Winter: 1-805-528-2730
www.silvercityresort.com. Open late May to mid-October. Cabins, chalets, supplies, restaurant, gifts, bakery, showers. No gas.

KINGS CANYON PARK

• **Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge** (KCPS)
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966
Front Desk: 1-559-335-5500
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. Open all year. In Grant Grove. Hotel all year, cabins (5/23-11/22), restaurant, showers, store, gifts.

• **Cedar Grove Lodge** (KCPS)
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966
Front Desk: 1-559-565-0100
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. May 16 to October 11. In the Kings Canyon. Motel, public showers, restaurant, laundry, store.

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/ MONUMENT AREA

• **Montecito Lake Resort** (formerly Montecito-Sequoia Lodge)
Reservations: 1-800-227-9900
Front Desk: 1-559-565-3388
www.mslodge.com. Open all year. On Generals Hwy 9 miles (14.5 km) south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, lodge, seasonal & children's activities.

• **Stony Creek Lodge** (KCPS)
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966
Front Desk: 1-559-565-3909.
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. Open May 9 - mid-October. On Generals Highway between Grant Grove & Lodgepole. Restaurant, market, showers, gas. Hotel (5/29).

• **Big Meadows Cabin** (FS)
1-877-444-6777; www.recreation.gov. Open mid-June to mid-October. An historic guard station in the National Monument between Grant Grove & Lodgepole.

* **Kings Canyon Lodge** (Private*)
Reservations: 1-559-335-2405
Open mid-April to mid-November. On Hwy 180, 13 miles (21 km) east of Grant Grove.

* **Note:** The two facilities on private land cannot be evaluated, regulated, or endorsed by the National Park or National Forest.

NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Three Rivers, Lemon Cove, Squaw Valley & others offer year-round lodging, camping, & services. Ask at visitor centers or check www.nps.gov/seki, click PLAN YOUR VISIT then link to LODGING.

WILDERNESS LODGE & PERMITS See page 4 for details.

YOU MUST STORE ALL FOOD!

BEARS quickly learn to get food from cars, picnic tables, and backpacks. They then become destructive and sometimes aggressive. They want our food, not us, but people can get hurt. Too often these bears must be killed. This is why you may be fined if you do not store food properly.

• **DRIVERS:** Never leave any food or scented item in cars. Take infant seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.

• **CAMPERS:** Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (see page 11 for box sizes; avoid bringing coolers that won't fit). Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor (even if it's not food) -- including unopened cans and bottles. Latch the box completely. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Where boxes are not provided, store food in the car trunk (seal food to reduce odors). If the car has no trunk, put everything on the floor, cover it well, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in bear-proof containers or store it like food.

• **PICKNICKERS:** Guard your food at all times.

• **LODGE GUESTS:** Keep cabin doors closed any time you leave.

• **BACKPACKERS:** Store all food in a portable canister. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few backcountry locations offer backup storage. Rent or buy a canister at park visitor centers or markets. Bears defeat most attempts to hang food in trees.

• **EVERYONE:** Don't let bears approach you or your food. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw small rocks in their direction (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. If a bear does get food, never try to take it back.

Each campsite has a table & fire ring with grill; no hook-ups.

Food-storage is required!: Always read & follow instructions on bulletin boards to help save a bear! See other rules on page 10.

*Summer reservations for Dorst & Lodgepole (in Sequoia NP) & for reservable campgrounds (marked * below) in the National Forest (USFS) may be made up to 6 months in advance of the date desired. Contact www.recreation.gov or 1-877-444-6777 (7am -9pm PST from 3/1-10/31). Customer service: 888-448-1474.

CAMP GROUNDS

KEY TO SYMBOLS:

"Nearby"-Within 2 miles/ 3.2



-Year-round



-Summer only

FOOD STORAGE: Avoid bringing items that won't fit.

Symbols on the chart tell the size of bear-proof food-storage boxes available in each campground:

One small box per site (47" long x 17" deep x 16" high);

◆ One large box per site (at least 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high);

⊠ A mix of box sizes;

+ Additional boxes available for sites to share.

# of sites	Daily Fee	Rest-rooms	Food within 2 miles	Showers within 2 miles	Laundry within 2 miles	Dump Station Nearby	Nature Programs Nearby	Pay Phone	Riding within 2 miles	River within 2 miles	Sequoias within 2 miles
#	\$										

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

FOOTHILLS AREA Elevation 2100'-3600'. Lowest in elevation, therefore warmest, often hot.

Potwisha: ◆ Open all year.	42	\$18	Flush				✓	☼	✓		✓
Buckeye Flat: ◆ Open until 9/30. No trailers or RVs.	28	\$18	Flush				at Potwisha	☼			✓
South Fork: # Open. Water (non-potable only) on 5/8.	10	\$12 May -Sept.	Vault								✓

MINERAL KING AREA Elevation 6650' - 7500'. Area opens 5/23. No RVs or trailers.

Atwell Mill: # Open 5/22 - 10/31.	21	\$12	Vault	☼	☼			☼			✓	✓
Cold Springs: # Open 5/22 - 10/31.	40	\$12	Vault	at Silver City	at Silver City			☼	✓		✓	

LODGEPOLE AREA Elevation 6700'. *= reservable in summer up to 6 months in advance (see Reservations above.)

*Lodgepole: ⊠ + Open all year. Reservation period 5/23 through 9/29.	214	\$20/18 \$20 during summer reservation period then \$18.	Flush	☼	☼	☼	☼	✓	☼		✓	✓
*Dorst: ⊠ + Open 6/26 through 9/9.	204	\$20	Flush				☼	☼	☼		✓	✓

IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

GRANT GROVE AREA Elevation 6500'.

Azalea: ◆ Open all year.	110	\$18/10	Flush	✓	☼			✓	at village	☼		✓
Crystal Springs: ◆ Open 5/16 - 9/16. Sites for groups of 7-15 (see page 10): 14	36	\$18 \$35	Flush	✓	☼			✓	"	☼		✓
Sunset: ◆ Open 5/20 - 9/8.	157	\$18	Flush	✓	☼			✓	"	☼		✓

CEDAR GROVE AREA (ON THE FLOOR OF THE KINGS CANYON) Elevation 4600'. Area opens 4/25.

Sentinel: 4600' ◆ + Open 4/24.	82	\$18	Flush	☼	☼	☼		☼	at visitor center	☼	✓	
Sheep Creek: 4600' ◆ + Open 5/20.	111	\$18	Flush	☼	☼	☼		☼	"	☼	✓	
Canyon View: 4600' ◆ Open 5/20. No RVs or trailers. Sites for groups of 7-19:	23	\$18 \$35	Flush	☼	☼	☼		☼	"	☼	✓	
Moraine: 4600' ◆ Open 5/20 for Memorial Day weekend, then open as needed.	120	\$18	Flush	☼	☼	☼		☼	"	☼	✓	

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT (FS)

HUME LAKE AREA Elevation 4000' - 5900'. *= reservable in summer. Opening dates depend on weather.

*Princess: Open 5/23. Opening dates are all weather-dependent.	88	\$17 single	Vault				☼\$7	☼			✓	✓
Dump station not recommended for vehicles over 30 feet long.												
*Hume Lake: + Open 5/23.	74	\$19 "	Flush	✓		✓		☼	✓		✓	
Tenmile: No water. Open 5/23.	13	\$15	Vault								✓	✓
Landslide: Open 5/23.	9	\$15	Vault								✓	✓
Convict Flat: Open 4/24. No water.	5		Vault								✓	

BIG MEADOWS & STONY CREEK AREAS Elevation 6400-7500'. Opening dates depend on weather. *= reservable in summer.

*Stony Creek: # Open 5/22.	49	\$19 single	Flush	☼	☼	☼		☼	at lodge		✓	✓
Upper Stony: # Open 5/22.	18	\$15	Vault	☼	☼	☼		☼	at lodge		✓	✓
Horse Camp: Open 5/22. No water.	5+		Vault								✓	
Buck Rock: Open 5/22. No water.	11		Vault									
Big Meadow: Open 5/22. No water.	40		Vault						by trailhead	✓	✓	

PARK ROADS

- Campground
- Picnic Area
- Lodging
- Horses/riding
- Gas station

Major paved road

Minor paved road

Unpaved road

Park boundary

STEEP ROADS:

Grades of 5-8%.
Downshift to avoid
overheated or failed
brakes. See page 5.

DRIVING TIME IN GOOD WEATHER:

FROM FOOTHILLS TO:
Giant Forest - 1 hour.
Lodgepole - 1 hour.
Visalia - 1 hour.
Mineral King - 1-1/2
hour. Road closed
Nov 1 to late May.

FROM GIANT FOREST TO
Grant Grove - 1 hour.

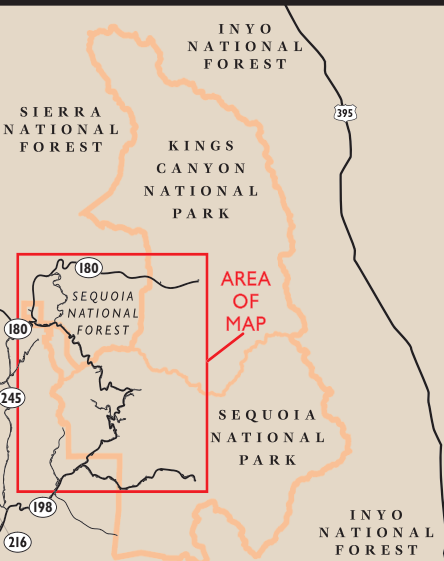
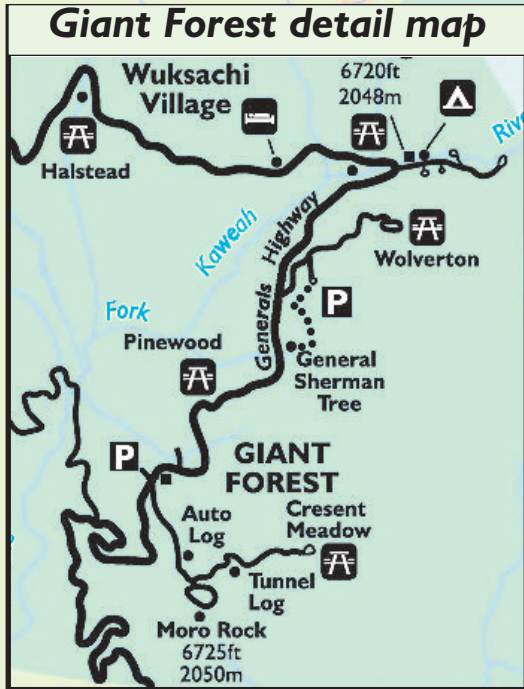
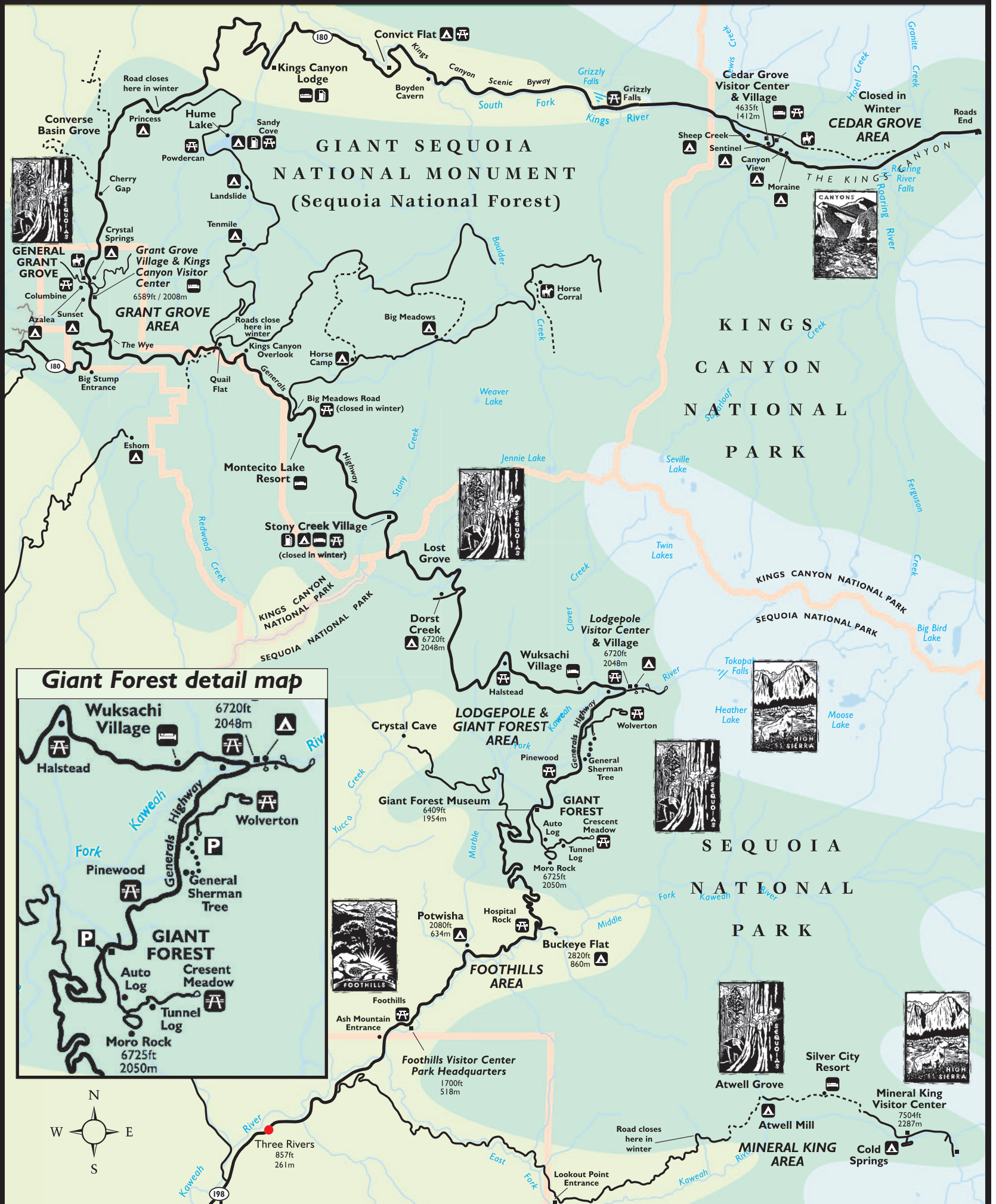
FROM GRANT GROVE TO:
Cedar Grove - 1 hour.
Road closed mid-
Nov to late April.
Fresno - 1-1/2 hours.
Yosemite south entry
via Hwy 41 - 3 hrs.

LIFE ZONES:

High Sierra -
9,000 to 14,500 feet.
Summer: Warm to chilly
days; nights down to
low 30s. Winter: frigid.

Conifer zone -
5,000 to 9,000 feet.
Summer: Warm days &
cool nights. Winter: deep
snow, cold days.

Foothills zone -
1,500 to 5,000 feet.
Mild, wet winters; hot,
dry summers. Cedar
Grove is cooler than the
foothills, but hotter than
Grant Grove.



SPRING 2009
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